



Role of Care and Support in HIV/AIDS Control

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KEYWORDS

The Health Care Providers has continued to play a key role in the care and support of persons living with AIDS. Despite the potential of the ART program to make an important contribution to the prevention efforts, the Health Care Providers has always faced many challenges to meet the needs and demands of persons living with AIDS. It is in view of this factor that the research study has been conducted to find out the role of care and support in the overall mitigation of the impact of HIV and AIDS.

The main objective of this research study was:

- To identify the role of care and support program ran by the National ART Program in managing impact of HIV and AIDS particularly among persons living with AIDS;
- To investigate the contribution of the Health Care Providers for HIV and AIDS care and support program;
- To identify the gaps in the current care and support program and opportunity for maximizing of the provision services to persons living with AIDS, and finally to identify the best practices and lessons that could be used in similar programs.

A total of 35 male, 25 female persons living with HIV/AIDS 15 ART Health Care Providers were conducted. The issues that were discussed include medical service, physical support, and social support to the PLWHAs. The result from this research study confirms that the ART Health Care Providers provide counseling, medical and nursing care. But from the findings, these needs are not met adequately. The needs identified are; the lack of HIV/AIDS education, counseling and financial support for the basic needs such as food, shelter and school fee for their children. In order for the ART program to provide better services to the PLWHA, the National ART Program has to strengthen the economic coping capacities of PLWHA and communities. This includes marginal support for school related costs, Nutritional food supplements, improve health care services and increase micro finances to address local collective needs and provision of welfare assistance. Use of community development approaches in setting priorities, making decisions, and planning and implementing strategies can enable the PLWHAs to take control of their destinies rather than depending on charity.